



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY 2008 PRESIDENT'S MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARDS

The President of Texas A&M University presents the annual President's Meritorious Service Awards to Texas A&M staff for their meritorious service to the University. Awards are funded through the generosity of The Association of Former Students. The awards were presented Monday, December 1, 2008 by President Dr. Elsa Murano.

Each individual recipient receives a \$700 cash award, a commemorative plaque, and a lapel pin. The team will be recognized with a plaque for departmental display. Each member of the team receives a cash award of \$200 and a framed certificate of recognition.

The President's Meritorious Service Awards Program is sponsored by the Office of the President and The Association of Former Students. The program is coordinated by Human Resources.

The following remarks were read about the recipients at the program.

Lali Barrientos

- Lali is a Senior Customer Service Assistant in the Department of Residence Life.
- She has 6 years of service with Texas A&M.

Nominators state:

- Lali is the epitome of Texas A&M University's "We Care" motto by providing outstanding customer service to nearly 8,000 student and parent customers each semester through her involvement in the Housing Assignments Office.
- During a recent turnover in staff, she learned the processes of two staff members who had left and had been responsible for those processes for more than ten years. She trained other staff members and her initiative made it possible for the Housing Assignments Office to get through the summer of 2008 successfully and with little disruption to the daily operations.
- Without her "can do" attitude and hard work in the Housing Assignments Office, Texas A&M University would have had a much more challenging 2008-2009 academic school year opening.
- Congratulations, Lali.

Adrienne Bentz

- Adrienne is an Assistant Director in the Center for Mathematics and Science Education in the College of Science.
- She has 10 years of service with Texas A&M.

Nominators state:

- Adrienne's contribution to the success of the Center and the Math and Science Scholars Program is invaluable. Her knowledge, energy, and commitment to the work of recruiting and preparing highly qualified teachers are unmatched. She is an encouraging leader and a remarkable team member.
- Each year, Adrienne works with dozens of teachers through the Advanced Placement workshops. She is often the first representative from the university with whom these individuals have contact. We could not have a better public representative to demonstrate Texas A&M's standard of excellence.
- She is creative, collaborative, an effective communicator and a consistent professional.
- Congratulations, Adrienne.

Edith Betts

- Edith is an Information Representative I for the Academic Support Services in the Office of Admissions.
- On December 14, 2008, Edith will have 38 years of service with Texas A&M.

Nominators state:

- Edith is responsible for undergraduate catalogs, commencement programs and recruitment publications, in addition to maintaining and updating a database for faculty for the catalogs and providing course descriptions to former students.
- When producing the undergraduate and graduate catalogs, she saved countless hours of work and prevented costly mistakes by correcting the smallest of errors. Her grammar and punctuation skills are impeccable.
- Her long tenure in the office provides us with a recollection of events over the years that has proved to be valuable when historical knowledge is needed. These qualities that also earned this living encyclopedia of Texas A&M information the moniker, "Eagle-Eye Betts."
- Congratulations, Edith.

Judy Bruce

- Judy is a Lead Office Associate for the Career Center
- She has 10 years of service with Texas A&M.

Nominators state:

- Judy is a reliable team member and a vital part of the day-to-day functioning of the Career Center. While managing an expansive range of activities, she maintains a positive attitude and a genuine regard for all of the people with whom she works.
- Her wide variety of talents has enabled her to do everything from categorizing and moving her supervisor's office belongings to thinking of publicity avenues for upcoming events. In addition to her talents, she provides structure to our record-keeping practices and forward-thinking planning to our presentation practices.
- Judy demonstrates sound judgment, trustworthiness, confidence, multitasking and excellence. She has the kind of work ethic that makes all of us in the Career Center better serve our student and employer clients by her example.
- Congratulations, Judy.

Lois Carter

- Lois is a Program Coordinator in the Department of Finance.
- She has 20 years of service with Texas A&M.

Nominators state:

- Lois serves as the main administrator for the Masters of Real Estate Program, but more importantly, she serves as a Learning Assistant in the Athletic Department and she also volunteers for Aggies Selflessly Serving in Shaping Tomorrow (ASSIST) as a student advisor.
- Not only does she efficiently work two different jobs at Texas A&M, her passion for assisting students is obvious and contagious. She takes the time to understand each student's individual learning style and to tailor success strategies around those styles. Moreover, she treats her students with a high level of respect and trust that helps instill those same principles.
- Lois is friendly, witty, intelligent, and caring to all and is a wonderful example of a person who is willing to go above and beyond her job responsibilities to make a difference in students' lives.
- Congratulations, Lois.

Teri Czajkowski

- Teri is an Academic Business Administrator II in the English Department.
- She has 19 years of service with Texas A&M.

Nominators state:

- Teri is responsible for a payroll of 209 faculty, staff and graduate students, and is extraordinarily conscientious, thorough and accurate in handling a budget of more than \$6 million dollars. In addition to the programs within the English Department, she also serves and supports a number of interdisciplinary programs.
- On a daily basis Teri makes the lives of everyone in the department easier. With her open door and her eagerness to help, she is first person staff and students turn to when there is either a problem or a new opportunity.
- Teri is a master problem solver. Whether assisting a graduate student with travel forms, or providing generous and compassionate help to a faculty member undergoing cancer treatment, she displays courage, grace and persistence.
- Congratulations, Teri.

Connie Duffield

- Connie is a Financial Management Supervisor II – University for the Financial Management Operations.
- She has 35 years of service with Texas A&M.

Nominators state:

- Connie is responsible for the accounting of both Dining Services and the University Club. The Dining Services Administrative staff has been able to count on high quality, accurate and timely information that Connie and her staff provide.
- When asked for guidance or answers to complex issues, Connie always comes through with the information needed to resolve the issue. She has a “can do” attitude and never complains about the complexity of a given task.
- Beyond her high quality work Connie is one of the most caring supervisors a staff member could have. She treats her staff with respect and truly like a family member. She is always there for her staff in their personal struggles and enthusiastic in supporting their achievements. In turn, her staff has shown remarkable loyalty of 15 plus years of working together.
- Congratulations, Connie.

Jennifer Ford

- Jennifer is an Associate Director in the Multicultural Services Department.
- She has 10 years of service with Texas A&M.

Nominators state:

- Jennifer is responsible for the development, implementation, coordination and evaluation of a variety of programs designed to increase the cultural competencies of students, faculty and staff, as well as create a more welcoming and inclusive campus environment.
- Prior to her arrival, the department was undergoing changes. In conjunction with a new director, Jennifer began the process of rebuilding and refocusing the department. Her talent at budgeting, planning and organization set a positive new course for the department. Most significantly, her gift in recruiting, hiring, and mentoring new staff aided in building one of the strongest teams in the division.
- She is truly a remarkable and exceptional administrator.
- Congratulations, Jennifer.

Vince Hardy

- Vince is a Research Associate in the Veterinary Integrative Biosciences.
- He has 21 years of service with Texas A&M.

Nominators state:

- Vince is responsible for the program management duties of three federally funded science promotion programs for the Partnership for Environmental Education and Rural Health (PEER).
- He has learned statistics to analyze data, learned graphics and printing to produce publication images, and acquired skills as an excellent reviewer of manuscripts to help prepare 110 original scientific publications. His efforts have earned him acknowledgements and in some cases co-authorship.
- Vince is a mentor and a teacher to the students, administrators and teachers participating in the PEER program. His kindness, pleasant demeanor, and light-hearted attitude always seem to make the teachers at the workshops genuinely happy to be there.
- His tireless dedication to these programs, ethical conduct and high quality of work are highly commendable. He is congenial, dedicated, and tremendously competent at everything he does.
- Congratulations, Vince.

Cindy Havner

- Cindy is a Manager in the Engineering Faculty Services of the Engineering Program Office.
- She has 28 years of service with Texas A&M.

Nominators state:

- Cindy is responsible for facilitating activities for more than 390 engineering faculty members. These activities include tenure and promotion, intermediate faculty reviews, faculty development leave, faculty recruitment, consulting requests and foreign travel requests, in addition to her many other activities and duties.
- In her position, she is the “go to” person when anyone has a question regarding faculty issues. It is amazing how she is able to stay on top of all of the rules and regulations for the college and university. She serves as the “institutional memory” for the college.
- Her knowledge is invaluable, but more important is her ability to solve complex problems, attack challenging assignments, and work effectively as a mentor to faculty and staff.
- Congratulations, Cindy.

Mark Hopcus

- Mark is a Computer Systems Manager for the Industrial and Systems Engineering Department.
- He has 9 years of service with Texas A&M.

Nominators state:

- Mark is responsible for the selection, design, installation and maintenance of the department’s electronic computing equipment. He supervises and coordinates all aspects of the computing facilities along with many other responsibilities.
- Over the years, Mark has taken on many other responsibilities, demonstrating not only professional development, but also a strong work ethic and a willingness to go above and beyond his job description.
- Mark is extremely professional and the quality of this work is outstanding. He is always ready to provide assistance to engineering program faculty, staff and students, and has won their respect and gratitude.
- Congratulations, Mark.

Barry Jackson

- Barry is a Business Administrator II in the Biomedical Engineering Department.
- He has 27 years of service with Texas A&M.

Nominators state:

- Barry is responsible for overseeing the business, fiscal, personnel, and human resources functions of the department as well as many others.
- He is an extraordinary, multi-dimensional leader in the department. He is able to balance the best interests of the university and the personal interests of the individuals involved.
- Although Barry provides excellent management, guidance and superb leadership, he went well beyond the expectations of his position by assisting a graduate student in financial need. The student not only obtained his degree from Texas A&M, but beyond the classroom and research, this student walked away knowing that Texas A&M is a very special place with remarkable individuals.
- Congratulations, Barry.

Robert Jensen

- Robert is a Business Coordinator II in the Entomology Department.
- He has 22 years of service with Texas A&M.

Nominators state:

- Robert is responsible for providing a wide variety of tasks and provides exceptional leadership and expertise in handling a variety of business activities related to the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and Texas AgriLife Research.
- He exemplifies the qualities of an effective Business Coordinator and is one of the agriculture's best-known, and most-respected authorities on all departmental business functions. Business Administrators from other departments often call on Robert to provide thoughtful advice, constructive criticism and well-considered options with regard to business practices.
- His work ethic and dedication are inspiring. His hard work and willingness to get the job done is a hallmark of his personality.
- Congratulations, Robert.

Diane Pruiett

- Diane is a Lead Office Associate for the Instructional Technology Services department.
- She has 10 years of service with Texas A&M.

Nominators state:

- Diane is often the “first contact” someone may have with Instructional Technology Services via phone or visiting the office and is very professional in her interactions with customers and co-workers.
- She has made exceptional contributions to the overall operations of the office. Her efforts have streamlined many processes, improved office organization, negotiated cost savings and improved inventory control. Her organizational skills and commitment to excellence deliver seamless and transparent service for her department.
- Diane’s “Howdy Spirit” is representative of what Texas A&M University is known for and her positive attitude is an invaluable asset to both her department and the university.
- Congratulations, Diane.

Craig Rotter

- Craig is a Coordinator of Residence Life for the Department of Residence Life and Housing.
- He has 12 years of service with Texas A&M.

Nominators state:

- Craig coordinates the Leadership Living Learning Community and serves as the primary advisor to the Residence Hall Association.
- Each year Dr. Rotter personally takes the time to learn the names, goals, achievements and future aspirations of over 100 student leaders. He maintains direct student contact, serves as an advocate for students and student issues, understands that personal circumstances affect learning and shows commitment to all his students’ well being.
- His ability to connect with students as a professor through his lectures and as an advisor through his leadership and selfless service has lead to positive change within his wide –reaching sphere of influence.
- Craig is truly an outstanding individual, an effective administrator and extraordinary student organization advisor.
- Congratulations, Craig.

Will Schrank

- Will is the Assistant Commandant for Administration in the Office of the Commandant.
- He has 15 years of service with Texas A&M.

Nominators state:

- Will consistently goes above and beyond in his multifaceted and complex position, often working extra hours to get the job done or work in support of Corps events and activities.
- He developed a process to track the individual applications of 1,800 cadets, handles the assignment of more than 1,600 Corps of Cadet scholarships and is a vital link to the daily operation of the Corps.
- Will is a staff member who creates a bond with the students, built on mutual trust and respect, and one that contributes to the student's personal development, academic well-being and educational experience.
- Will's every execution and intention, regardless of popularity of decision or difficulty of task, is made in the best interest of the Corps and the students of Texas A&M.
- Congratulations, Will.

Vickie Skrhak

- Vickie is a Business Associate III in the Biology Department.
- She has 6 years of service with Texas A&M.

Nominators state:

- Vickie is responsible for processing payroll for all monthly-paid personnel and as many as 100 graduate students in her department. Keeping track of payroll for graduate students can be challenging. Vickie checks daily to ensure graduate students are classified correctly, paid from the correct accounts and paid the right amount.
- Vickie has also assisted staff in grant administration, interviewing and hiring and other employee issues, all well beyond the scope of her job description but not beyond the scope of her ability.
- She embodies a laudable attitude. If Vickie is asked to do something, or feels that she can help, whether or not it is part of her job, she does so without a second thought. She is truly one of the most valuable administrative resources available to staff in her department.
- Congratulations, Vickie.

Cathy Sperry

- Cathy is a Manager for the Engineering Student Services and Academic Programs in the College of Engineering.
- She has 20 years of service with Texas A&M.

Nominators state:

- Cathy supervises over 10 staff members, provides administrative support to the Senior Associate Dean and coordinates activities associated with recruitment of undergraduate students, student records, scholarship and recognition, diversity initiatives and public relations.
- Cathy has made tremendous improvements to the efficiency and morale of the office staff. Her skillful management and demonstration of strength, kindness and ethics has made her a trusted leader.
- Cathy has a true heart for the students. She is particularly adept at humanizing the advising process, empathizing with the students and providing a calming outlook. She has excelled in her service to Texas A&M through commitment, passion and diligence.
- Congratulations, Cathy.

James Welford

- James is an Associate Director of the Recreational Sports Department.
- He has 29 years of service with Texas A&M.

Nominators state:

- James has been an untiring, dedicated employee for the department of Rec Sports for many years, providing quality programs and services for students and staff of Texas A&M. His duties have ranged from oversight of student officials, to Associate Director of intramurals to his current role as Associate Director of Development.
- Thanks to James' efforts, an intramural champions dinner was established last year to both recognize winners and also provide a means of keeping in touch with some of the department's most active participants after they graduate.
- James does an incredible job of building relationships with students and going beyond the normal day-to-day business by providing special opportunities to let them know how much their involvement and leadership means to our department. James is a true student mentor.
- Congratulations, James.

Sam Wigington

- Sam is a Large Animal Clinical Manager in the Large Animal Clinical Sciences Department.
- He has 36 years of service with Texas A&M.

Nominators state:

- Our department has relied on Sam Wigington's expertise, experience, wisdom and institutional knowledge for over 35 years.
- Sam is responsible for all of the animals in the teaching program, coordination of animal use protocols, maintenance of culture and biohazard records for the Large Animal Hospital, coordination of numerous conferences and special events and many other roles.
- In 2005 Hurricane Rita generated one of the largest, most logistically demanding evacuations of people and animals ever recorded for Texas. Sam's personal talents, organizational skill and veterinary clinic management experience were called upon to make the facility ready to accept medical special-needs human patients within 72 hours of the alert notice.
- Sam has been a tremendous asset and ambassador for Texas A&M through his tireless and selfless work.
- Congratulations, Sam.

DeAun Woosley

- DeAun is a Student Development Specialist IV with the Recreational Sports Department.
- She has 16 years of service with Texas A&M.

Nominators state:

- DeAun establishes and maintains programs in group fitness, sport training and health education. She has coordinated certification programs in personal training, strength and conditioning and aerobic fitness with nationally-recognized associations, and has made our fitness program one of the top in the state and nation.
- DeAun coordinates the Healthy Living Lecture series, the TexFit exchange program and was awarded a grant to study physical education, obesity and diabetes for kindergarten through fifth grade in a nearby independent school district.
- In addition to her ability to train and evaluate fitness instructors, DeAun has the ability to empathize with her students as they go through the many challenges of college life. She is a wonderful mentor, great friend and outstanding leader.
- Congratulations, DeAun.

Mark Wright

- Mark is a Senior Lead Microcomputer/LAN Administrator with the Entomology Department.
- He has 23 years of service with Texas A&M.

Nominators state:

- Dr. Wright handles the management and maintenance of the department's workstations and servers and is the key person for resolving computer issues. He also oversees facility security and serves as the department's health and safety officer.
- Mark was instrumental in the discovery, evaluation and implementation of a document imaging system which has now been adopted by the college and various A&M System agencies. This technological advancement saved the department \$100,000 per year in improved space utilization and increased staff efficiency.
- Mark has the amazing ability to juggle dozens of projects and requests, always with a smile on his face, while satisfying the needs and requirements of each and every person in the department of Entomology. He genuinely cares about those with whom he works.
- Congratulations, Mark.

Wes Wynn

- Wes is a Senior Management Analyst for the Human Resources Department.
- He has 11 years of service with Texas A&M.

Nominators state:

- Wes is a vital link to the expanding use of data upon which we base decisions to develop or enhance HR programs and services. He is responsible for acquiring and assembling data from a variety of sources and systems to produce workforce reports, state auditor's office reports and the federally-required affirmative action program.
- Wes has exceptional skills in Microsoft Excel, Access PeopleAdmin and Peopleclick computer programs. He is known as the "data guru" by his colleagues and department leadership and is a teacher and mentor to others.
- Wes provided significant research and data support to the TAMU management and staff surveys conducted in 2007, and was instrumental in the collaboration with several faculty and graduate students from the Mays Business School.
- Wes works with extreme dedication, focus and flexibility. He is a true team player.
- Congratulations, Wes.

Cheryl Yeager

- Cheryl is an Academic Business Administrator for the Ecosystem Science & Management Department.
- She has 14 years of service with Texas A&M.

Nominators state:

- Cheryl is responsible for all aspects of the departmental business operations, including budgets, financial accounting, payroll, human resources, cash management, inventory and property accounting, travel, purchasing and contracts and grants.
- She supervised business offices in two departments on different sides of campus for several months while reorganizing them into a single cohesive unit. She often worked late hours and weekends to get the job done. Cheryl handled the many daunting tasks associated with joining the departments and remained available to faculty from both departments for their requests for assistance.
- While Cheryl is professional in her strong work ethic, she remains a very congenial and positive person who inspires those with whom she works.
- Congratulations, Cheryl.

Jocelyn Zarate

- Jocelyn is a Financial Aid Administrator in the Scholarships and Financial Aid Department.
- She has 24 years of service with Texas A&M.

Nominators state:

- Jocelyn serves as Assistant Team Lead for a scholarship team, coordinates the Texas Grant program, advises students, coordinates the Aggie Transfer Scholarship program and supervises five staff members.
- The Texas Grant program serves over 3,800 students totaling \$18 million dollars this past year. Jocelyn manages funds distribution, monitors Satisfactory Academic Progress and oversees reporting to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. She was nominated by her peers for The Texas Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators STAR advisor award.
- Jocelyn has had an amazing impact on students, parents and coworkers. She has personally counseled, advised and assisted countless students over the years. She is dedicated, accessible, always helpful and compassionate.
- Congratulations, Jocelyn.

PMSA Team Recipient:

The Staff Advisory Council Community Service Committee for the College of Education and Human Development

The team consists of nine members. The team is a diverse group, representing multiple departments across the college. In the 2007-2008 academic year, the team set out to involve the college in local service and outreach programs, but brought the college community together to get involved in national service projects as well.

Nominators state:

- The team led the college in collecting \$2,000 as part of the American Cancer Society Penny War and hosted an Aggie Relay for Life team in April.
- The team coordinated an effort in which faculty and staff served food at the Hospice Caregivers Luncheon, donated vases and fleece blankets for patients and sent monthly packages to service members in Iraq, among many other projects.
- The amazing work of the committee has directly impacted the lives of children and families in need. These members have given freely of their time and limited resources and at the same time effectively carried out the multiple and extensive demands of their university positions. They embody the spirit of service and citizenship.
- Congratulations to these members of the Staff Advisory Council Community Service Committee for the College of Education and Human Development.

Mary Helen Coady, Business Administrator II with Health and Kinesiology

Shannon Eyre, Senior Office Associate with Educational Psychology

Jenna Kujawski, Communications Manager with Dean of Education

Kathy A. May, Business Administrator I with Educational Psychology

Kathy E. May, Program Coordinator with Dean of Education

Beverly McClain, Business Administrator I with Dean of Education

Susan Morris, Program Coordinator with Educational Administration & HR Development

Cyndi Gilliam Schoen, Administrative Assistant Dean of Education

Kristie Stramaski, Academic Advisor II with Educational Psychology